

s/n 10/679,908
221-0073US

REMARKS

The Office Action rejected claims 1 – 9 under §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,015,016 (Smith). The Office Action contends that “Smith shows an undersea hydraulic coupling member having a tail 74, at least one substantially rigid positioning member 26 associated with the tail, wherein the substantially rigid positioning members are in contact with the inner bore 73 of a manifold plate when the tail is inserted through the manifold plate (figure 1).”

However, element 74 of Smith is not a tail.

The “tail” of an hydraulic coupling is defined in the specification of the subject application:

The female member generally is a cylindrical body with a relatively large diameter longitudinal bore at one end and a relatively small diameter longitudinal bore or tail at the other. The tail facilitates insertion through manifold plates, and connections to hydraulic lines, while the large bore seals, and slidingly engages, the male member of the coupling. The male member includes a cylindrical portion at one end having an outer diameter approximately equal to the diameter of the large bore in the female member of the coupling. The male member also includes a tail connection at its other end to facilitate insertion through a manifold plate, and connection to hydraulic lines. [paragraph 0002]

The present invention provides a tail on the non-coupling end of both a male and female member of a hydraulic coupling device. The tail is machined to fit through pre-cut, holes in a manifold plate. The clearance between the outer diameter of the tail and the inner diameter of the hole in the manifold plate is such that the tail will fit easily through the hole. The tail has positioning members on its outer diameter that when inserted fully into the hole in the manifold the positioning members compress to an interference fit which will hold the coupling

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in a normal, i.e., substantially perpendicular, position to the manifold plate.
[paragraph 0006]

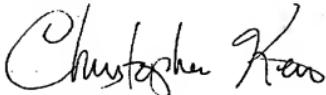
Element 74 of Smith is the wall of the male member probe.

The male member 13, as shown in FIG. 4, comprises generally three cylindrical shapes. A probe handle 72 is a cylinder of substantially uniform outside diameter. Threads 73 may be added to the external surface to facilitate attachment to a coupling manifold, as explained above, or the external surface may be machined smooth and the probe 13 may be attached to the manifold by means of set screws (not shown). The probe handle 72 and probe wall 74 lie along the same longitudinal axis and are connected by a first shoulder 76. The first shoulder 76 includes a truncated, conical section 76a, the larger diameter facing the handle 72, and the smaller diameter being coincident with the end of probe wall 74. [col. 7, lines 5-18]

Since element 74 is on the coupling end of the male member, it cannot be the tail as that term is defined in the specification. Probe handle 72 of the coupling disclosed in Smith is the "tail" of that coupling's male member and probe handle 72 has no associated "substantially rigid positioning member" as required by claims 1 - 9.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that claims 1 - 9 are not anticipated by Smith. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested.

Respectfully submitted:



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